

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

ORDER NO. 87-080  
NPDES NO. CA0006157

AN ORDER AMENDING ORDER NO. 84-88,  
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR:

STAUFFER CHEMICAL COMPANY  
RICHMOND PLANT  
RICHMOND, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, (hereinafter called the Board) finds that:

1. On December 18, 1984, the Regional Board adopted Order No. 84-88 (NPDES No. CA0006157) prescribing waste discharge requirements for Stauffer Chemical Company, Richmond plant (hereinafter referred to as the discharger).
2. The discharger manufactures DEVRINOL (a herbicide), and VAPAM (a soil fumigant). The plant also formulates, packages, stores, and bulk loads several other agricultural pesticides, including thiocarbamates. A research laboratory and a pilot plant are also located on-site. No process wastewater is discharged to the wastewater treatment system.
3. Waste 001 consists of cooling tower blowdown from the manufacture of VAPAM, boiler blowdown, steam condensates, equipment and floor washings, ground water from the intercept trench, washdown water from the pilot plant, rinse and other waters from the research laboratory and storm water runoff from production and handling areas of various agricultural and industrial chemicals. The plant is divided into inorganic and organic areas. The treatment process for the organic areas, including flow from the ground water intercept trench, the research laboratory, pilot plant, and yard runoff except for the VAPAM area, consists of activated carbon treatment, neutralization, and clarification. The treatment process for the inorganic wastewaters and runoff from the VAPAM area consists of neutralization and clarification. The average discharge rate, excluding periods of no discharge, is 0.15 million gallons per day (mgd). During storm events the total discharge may increase to 1.5 mgd. The treated effluent is currently discharged via two evaporation ponds into a tidal basin tributary to San Francisco Bay, a water of the United States.
4. Order No. 84-88, provides, in part as follows:

"Prohibition A. 1.

Discharge of waste 001 which contains constituents of concern, and is discharged at a location that does not receive a minimum of 10:1 dilution, is prohibited."

and,

"Provision D. 2.

The discharger shall comply with Discharge prohibition A. 1. by July 1, 1987. The discharger shall submit by July 15, 1985 a proposal with time schedule for achieving compliance. Compliance may be achieved by demonstrating to the satisfaction of the Board that an exception to the Basin Plan Prohibition should be granted. The discharger shall submit to the Board by July 1, 1986 the proposed demonstration of Prohibition exception, or a demonstration that resources have been committed towards compliance, such as a Draft Environmental Impact Report. The discharger shall submit by July 15th and January 15th annually, reports demonstrating progress towards compliance."

5. The discharger submitted a report titled "Request For Exemption To Deep-Water Outfall Requirement" on July 1, 1986. The discharger was requesting an exception on the basis that the discharge of treated waste water to evaporation ponds provides the net environmental benefit of increased wildlife habitat. Staff reviewed the proposed exception request and determined that it did not adequately demonstrate the existence of a net environmental benefit, but that additional study of the ponds could provide the needed biological information. The additional biological information was completed and submitted February 3, 1987.
6. The California Department of Fish and Game has indicated that they would not object to the issuance of an exception provided that the evaporation ponds are considered to be the receiving waters rather than a part of the treatment system.
7. The exception request and supplemental data indicate that the discharge of the treated waste water to the two evaporation ponds may provide a net environmental benefit. Toxicity testing of the evaporation ponds waters and shallow sediments have been performed. The two evaporation ponds provide fresh water wildlife habitat for resident and migratory water fowl.
8. Some pesticides were found in the deeper pond sediments. Under the provisions of the Toxic Pits Cleanup Act, the discharger must sample and analyze the pond sediments, and the pond waters, to determine if they are a hazardous waste as defined by the California Administrative Code, Title 22, Division 4, Chapter 30.
9. Because of the potential value of the evaporation ponds, a final determination on the discharger's request for exception should not be made until the discharger has complied with the provisions of the Toxic Pits Cleanup Act.
10. The Board adopted a revised Water Quality Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin on December 17, 1986, and this order implements the water quality objectives stated in that plan.

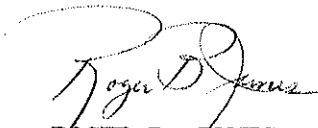
11. This Order amends an NPDES permit, adoption of which is exempt from the provisions of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 21110 of Division 13) of the Public Resources Code (CEQA) pursuant to Section 13389 of the California Water Code.
12. The Board has notified the discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe waste discharge requirements for the discharge, and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.
13. The Board in a public meeting heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT, that this Board's Order No. 84-88 is amended as follows:

A. Provision D.2. is revised to read as follows:

The discharger shall comply with Discharge Prohibition A.1. by January 22, 1988.

I, Roger B. James, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on July 15, 1987.



ROGER B. JAMES  
Executive Officer